



DEFENDER ID CARD AGREEMENT

Overview

Human rights defenders (HRDs) in Africa often face threats, harassments, and other restrictions upon their rights as recognised in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (1998). In this context, the main goal of the Pan-African Human Rights Defenders Network is to improve the safety and security of HRDs across the continent.

Increasing the profile of HRDs and demonstrating their connections with wide networks outside their immediate location can, in certain circumstances, increase the 'political cost' of attacking HRDs or violating their rights. In this light, the HRD Identity Card was conceived as a tool to assist African HRDs in reminding duty-bearers of their rights under international law, and to demonstrate that their human rights work is recognised by the international networks with which they are associated.

What the ID card *is*

- A tool to improve the protection and effectiveness of human rights defenders in Africa, in conjunction with other security measures;
- A reminder to duty-bearers of their obligations under international law to protect the rights of human rights defenders;
- A reminder to duty-bearers that the HRD is known to international networks;
- A resource containing emergency contact information;
- A tool independently operated by the Pan-African Human Rights Defenders Network and its member networks.

What the ID card *is not*

- *It is not* a replacement for an organizational ID card;
- *It may not* be used to avoid responsibility for criminal conduct;
- *It is not* an exclusive measure of an individual's status as a human rights defender;
- *It is not* issued by any intergovernmental body.

How you should use the ID Card

In interactions with authorities, you may produce your ID card to demonstrate your recognised history of human rights work and your known connection to international human rights networks, if you feel that such an action would protect yourself from violation of your rights. Card-holders should use their judgement to decide when to use the card, and when it would be unhelpful.

ID Card Agreement

Bearers of the Pan-African HRD Identity Card are required to sign and adhere to the following Code of Conduct below. Breach of the Code of Conduct invalidates the ID Card and may result in the suspension of further collaboration and cooperation between the Pan-African Human Rights Defenders Network and the HRD in question.

In signing this code of conduct, African Human Rights Defenders agree to adhere to the following principles:

Non-discrimination

African HRDs defend universally recognised human rights and fundamental freedoms for all people, without discrimination of any kind

Non-violence

African HRDs do not use violence or apologize for violent movements as a tool for human rights realization.

No criminal behaviour

African HRDs do not engage in or tolerant criminal activity with the exception of non-violent civil disobedience.

No conflict of interests

African HRDs are committed not to engage in political or other activities that damage the independence of their human rights work.

Good faith

African HRDs act honestly, impartially and in the best interest of human rights promotion and protection in Africa

Transparency and integrity

African HRDs are committed to act in an independent, transparent and open manner about our objectives and activities, without tolerance for any acts of corruption.

Signed:

Name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Date:

Location:

Phone number:

Email: